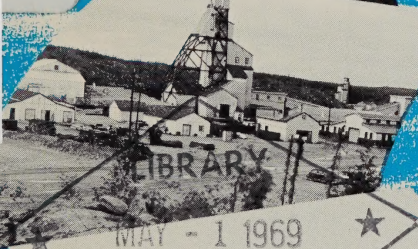
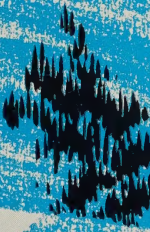


Government  
Publications



# Canada

Mackenzie  
Route to  
Northwest  
Territories



# The Mackenzie Route

Scenic adventure through almost untouched wilderness awaits the motorist along the Mackenzie Route, an extension of the Peace River Highway network. Beginning at Grimshaw, Alberta, it reaches north 626 miles to colourful Yellowknife on the northern shore of Great Slave Lake, in the Northwest Territories.

There are five major sections to the Mackenzie Route – the Hay River Highway, the Yellowknife Highway, the Ingraham Trail, the Fort Smith Highway and the Pine Point Highway.

Penetrating some of Canada's most beautiful northland areas, they wend their way past swift-flowing rivers, picturesque waterfalls and stately jackpine ridges. Only the occasional tiny settlement offers firm proof of habitation. The first few miles out of Grimshaw are paved; the remainder is maintained gravel.

This is no trip for the impulse traveller. One must plan, and plan with care. However, the rewards are considerable. Of the many inspiring scenes along the tri-highway system, Alexandra Falls, near the settlement of Enterprise is perhaps the most striking example. Here the cooling waters of the Hay River plunge 140 feet from a broad ledge into a deep gorge. Just one mile away a short walk from the highway leads to another of the many cataracts found along the way, Louise Falls. While small in comparison to Alexandra, this 46-foot drop is truly appealing.

There are as many as twenty daylight hours a day in the month of June, and the area averages eight hours of bright sunshine each day at that time of year. Usual summer clothing as well as some medium-weight wear as a precaution against cool evenings should be brought along. Prudent travellers take insect repellent for protection against flies and mosquitoes.

## Provincial Approach Roads

The most direct route, Edmonton to Grimshaw, Highways 16, 43, 34 and 2 is paved as far as Manning.

From the British Columbia-Washington border Highway 97 extends to Dawson Creek, British Columbia, which can be reached also from Vancouver via Highways 1 and 97. These routes are paved. From Dawson Creek one drives to Grimshaw via Highways 49 and 2.

The main approach from Regina, Saskatchewan to Edmonton, Alberta is via Highways 11, 5 and 16, along an entirely paved route.

## **Road Conditions**

Since some reconstruction work will likely be in progress along the Mackenzie Highway System, motorists planning to travel this route should obtain the latest information available on road conditions. Road reports for the Provinces and Territories are available from their respective travel organizations the names and addresses of which are listed at the back of this booklet.

## **Bus Service**

Canadian Coachways operate a daily bus service between Edmonton and Peace River. They also operate daily service from Peace River to Hay River, and from Hay River to Pine Point.

Three round trips per week are available from Hay River to Yellowknife. The one-way fare from Edmonton to Yellowknife is \$38.00, and return \$76.00.

Information on schedules and rates may be obtained from Canadian Coachways Limited, 15205 - 112 Avenue, Edmonton, Alberta.

## **Fishing**

Fishing in the Northwest Territories is permitted under licence during all seasons. Lakes and streams are teeming with Arctic Grayling, Arctic char and northern pike, but the biggest species and main drawing card is lake trout. The cost of a non-resident fishing licence is \$2. Complete information and up-to-date summaries of regulations can be obtained from TravelArctic, Yellowknife, N.W.T., Canada. Information and regulations applicable to Alberta are available from the Alberta Travel Bureau, 1629 Centennial Building, Edmonton, Alberta.

When angling in the Northwest Territories it is advisable to hire the services of a local guide. Arrangements for guides who are experienced bushmen may be made locally.

## **Hunting**

Until recently hunting throughout the Northwest Territories by non-residents was generally restricted to upland game birds and migratory



waterfowl. The only wild buffalo hunt in North America is open to N.W.T. residents and may be re-opened soon to non-residents. Now, however, Game Management Zones No. 12 and 19 (which comprise a large section of the Mackenzie and Nahanni River drainage system between the Mackenzie River and the Yukon-Northwest Territories boundary) have been opened for moose, caribou, Mountain sheep (Dall), mountain goat, and bear (black and grizzly). Particulars on hunting regulations, outfitters and local conditions can be obtained by writing TravelArctic, Yellowknife, N.W.T., Canada.

## Topographical Maps

Topographical maps can be purchased from the Map Distribution Office, Department of Energy, Mines and Resources, Ottawa, Canada. The price is 50¢ each, Canadian funds.



# NWT Highway 1

Highway 1 runs from the 60th parallel, north to Enterprise, then west towards Fort Simpson. In 1967, construction of fifty miles of road was completed, from Mile 117 to Mile 167. In 1968, a two-year contract was let, covering construction from Mile 167 to Mile 229, and clearing to the Liard River at Mile 286. From Mile 117, Highway 3 leads north to Yellowknife.

Mile

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0

**NWT-Alberta border:** Service station, store and restaurant.

**Information Centre:** Tourist information provided by the Government of the Northwest Territories. Open 14 hours a day, 7 days a week during season.

**Campground:** Immediately beyond the Information Centre, a 1,500 foot gravel road leads to a camping and picnic area on the bank of the Hay River. Ten tent or trailer sites, pit toilets, well water, wood, shelter, fireplaces, grills, tables, fishing.

**Geological note:** The highway from the 60th parallel to Mile 117 cuts across a series of palaeozoic limestones and sandstones of Devonian age. Interesting rock samples may be collected at many points and there are good fossil collecting localities. At Enterprise, the road turns and follows a ridge formed from an escarpment of these resistant Devonian limestones. This ridge is the principal relief south of the Mackenzie River.

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21.8

**Trail:** A trail leads to a clearing from which a view may be obtained of Grumbler Rapids on Hay River. The river has its source in the Rocky Mountains and flows 300 miles to Great Slave Lake.

**Alexandra Falls:** Picnic area with tables, shelters, fireplaces, toilets, wood and water, overlooking Alexandra Falls, a sheer drop of 140 feet. North of Alexandra Falls there is a natural bridge formed in Devonian limestone, one of the best examples of its type in Canada. Numerous fossil beds are to be found in the limestones and shales of the Hay River valley.



**Louise Falls:** About 3/10 of a mile via an access road to the parking area. Ten tent or trailer sites, pit toilets, well water, wood, shelters, fireplaces, grills, tables, good fishing for northern pike.

Trail through the woods leads to Louise Falls, where Hay River drops 52 feet in a series of steps.

### **Escarpment Creek campground**

**access:** One thousand feet from the highway, the campground is in a wooded area adjacent to a fast flowing stream and small waterfall. Six tent or trailer sites, tables, shelter, pit toilets, fireplaces, grills, wood, well water. At this point Hay River passes on its way to Great Slave Lake through a gorge 170 feet high extending downstream for five miles. There are three miles of rapids. Below the gorge, bluish-green soft shales rise gradually to form bold bluffs along both sides of the valley.

Note the rabbit browse line in the stand of jack pine surrounding the campground. Some trees have been entirely clipped by the snowshoe rabbit at a height of two feet, while other trees have their lower branches trimmed to this height.

**Escarpment Creek:** A few hundred feet to the east of the point where the highway crosses the creek is a picturesque set of falls associated



with a gorge. The highest of the falls, the farthest downstream, is about 45 feet.

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51.8

**Enterprise:** Esso station and coffee shop open 6 a.m. to midnight. Major highway repairs, gasoline, oil and propane. Pay 'phone. Well water, Cabins. Fishing tackle, licences and information. Pacific 66 gas, open 6 a.m. to midnight. El Camino motel and store. For details on accommodation see ACCOMMODATION IN CANADA'S ARCTIC NORTHWEST TERRITORIES.

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54.3

**Geodetic Tower:** Constructed in 1958 to provide clear line of sight between survey stations. Closed to public use.

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75.1

**McNally Creek:** A few hundred feet to the east of the highway McNally Creek falls over a precipice into a gorge.

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76

**Fossil Location:** Escarpment face is an interesting topographic feature at this point, and also contains fossils of Middle Devonian age.

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81

**Heart Lake Fire Tower Access Road:** Half a mile from the highway is a picnic area near the fire tower. Barbecue grill, picnic tables, toilets, wood, well water available from towerman. There is a superb vista across the sweeping lowlands of the Mackenzie valley with the Horn Plateau to the north. Path leads 500 yards across two crevices to the edge of a 250 foot escarpment, an ancient coral reef.



Half a mile to the north of the fire tower a biological research station has been established by the University of Alberta.

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81.6

**Heart Lake campground access road:**

One and a half miles to Heart Lake campground. Ten tent or trailer sites, shelter, pit toilets, fireplaces, grills, wood, covered picnic tables, well water. Boating, boat ramp, fishing, small dock. Heart Lake is approximately one and a half miles in length by one mile in width and generally shallow. Scenic view of lake and Cameron Hills.

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86

**Fossils:** Highway cuts through an interesting bed of mid-Devonian fossils revealing corals and some brachiopods.

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105.4

**Road to Lady Evelyn Falls scenic area and Kakisa Lake campground:**

Campground four miles up access road to Kakisa Lake. Six tent or trailer sites, pit toilets, tables, fireplaces, wood, shelters, water, fishing for grayling and northern pike. Path down hill leads to view of Lady Evelyn Falls where Kakisa River drops over a 48 foot limestone escarpment. Staircase leads into gorge at base of falls. Fossils may be found here. At end of road, eight miles from highway lies Kakisa Lake, 23 miles in length and about five miles wide. Swimming and boating opportunities; good pickerel and pike fishing. Attractive Slave Indian settlement (log cabins).

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106.7

**Kakisa River:** Campground has six tent or trailer sites, pit toilets, water, wood, fireplaces, grills, tables, boating, fishing for grayling and northern pike.

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117.2

**Highway Junction:** Junction of NWT Highways 1 and 3. Highway 1, leading towards Fort Simpson is under construction and not yet open to traffic. There is a winter road to Fort Simpson.



# NWT Highway 2

## Hay River Highway

This 30 mile highway from Enterprise through Hay River affords many scenic viewpoints across the Hay River Valley. The Hay River rises in the Rocky Mountains and flows 300 miles to Great Slave Lake.

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Mile

**Geological note:** Devonian Corals and brachiopods are abundant in the Hay River shales that form the banks of the Hay River. These fossils are exquisitely preserved and unique for their fine details.

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10

**Paradise Gardens:** One of the few places where commercial crops have been grown in these high latitudes. The long hours of sunshine more than compensate for the short season, and some of the vegetables are of great size. Paradise Gardens are located on a meander plain of the Hay River. Cultivated area is about three acres. Main crops are strawberries, raspberries, potatoes, cabbage, peas, cucumbers, some tomatoes.

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20

**Highway 5:** Leads to Fort Smith, 165 miles away on Highway 5, and to Pine Point, 53 miles via Highways 5 and 6.

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21

**Service Stations:** King's Service. Repairs only, during regular working hours. 4 Bee's Service, Pacific 66 gas.

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23

**Hay River:** New townsite. Caribou Motor Court, Ptarmigan Inn (for details see ACCOMMODATION IN CANADA'S ARCTIC NORTH-

WEST TERRITORIES). R.C.M.P. Barracks, Esso Service Station, Chamber of Commerce, *Tourist Information Centre*.

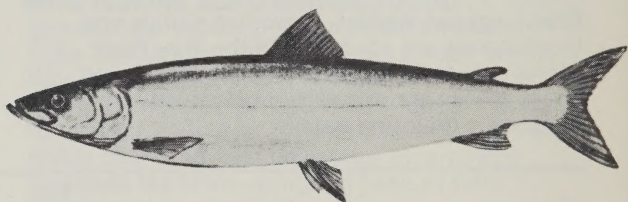
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## Airport:

27

**Hay River:** Town of Hay River, population 3,000. Transportation hub of the north. Northern terminus of the Great Slave Lake Railway, trucking centre, main loading point for barges of the Northern Transportation Co. Ltd. which supply settlements all the way to the Arctic coast and the islands of the western Arctic. Regional headquarters of Canadian National Telecommunications.

Commercial fishing operations produce several million pounds of whitefish and trout annually. Indian village across river and Centennial Library are points of interest.



## Services

**Service Stations:** BA, ESSO, Pacific 66 gas and car repairs 8:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m. week days, 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Sundays; Shell 8:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m. week days, 9:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. Sundays.

**Accommodation:** Hay River Hotel. Area for tenting and trailer parking on shore of Great Slave Lake within town. For details refer to ACCOMMODATION IN CANADA'S ARCTIC NORTHWEST TERRITORIES.

**Transportation:** Modern airport with scheduled service provided by Pacific Western Airlines and KeirAir. Facilities for private aircraft, equipped with wheels, floats or skis. Taxis, car rentals from Tilden, Avis and Robertson Geophysical Rental Services Ltd. Boat rental or charter and boat launching site. Air charter: Carter Air Services, KeirAir, Northward Aviation.

**Daily bus service:** Canadian Coachways system.

**Radio:** CBC Relay Station, dial 1490 AM

**Communications:** Telephone, telegraph, teletype, telex and radio telephone.

**Clubs :** Royal Canadian Legion, Kiwanis, Hay River Chamber of Commerce.

**Churches :** Anglican, Pentecostal, Roman Catholic, United and Jehovah's Witnesses.

**Bank :** Royal Bank of Canada

**Health :** 28-bed hospital with modern facilities and two resident doctors. Two drug stores with prescription services.

**Police :** R.C.M.P. post.

**Stores and Services :** Hardware stores, general stores, hairdresser and barber shop, dry cleaner, laundromats, two post offices, government liquor store, Hudson's Bay Post, movie theatre, cafés, dining lounge and bars.

**Sports Fishing :** Lake trout, pike, pickerel (wall-eyed pike) and grayling. Grayling sometimes called bluefish by local residents because of their sheen, abound in these waters. Carter Air Service provides outfitter service, flying from Hay River to McKay Lake, Point Lake and the Mackenzie River near Wrigley Harbour. Brabant Island Lodge accessible by plane or boat from Hay River. For details, see ACCOMMODATION IN CANADA'S ARCTIC NORTHWEST TERRITORIES.

**Tourist Information :** Available from Chamber of Commerce, Box 420, Hay River, N.W.T.

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28

**Campsite :** Vale Island Campground operated by Hay River Chamber of Commerce, on the shore of 12,000 square mile Great Slave Lake, has a gently sloping sandy beach and an excellent view of the lake. Good swimming, picnicking and camping area. Log cooking shelter, picnic tables, toilets.

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30.6

**West Channel :** Settlement with general store and fish packing houses.



# NWT Highway 3

## Yellowknife Highway

This all-weather gravel highway continues north from Highway 1 some 15 miles south of the Mackenzie River, and leads 215 miles around Great Slave Lake to Yellowknife.

Mile

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**Geological note:** From the junction with Highway 1, the route continues across a relatively low-lying area of Devonian sedimentary rocks; exposures are, however, rather inconspicuous. Near the North Arm of Great Slave Lake, the relief becomes more apparent and the series of Ordovician or older rocks that are underneath the Devonian form a gentle escarpment that runs along the southwest side of the North Arm. The road passes across these Ordovician rocks, over the narrow isthmus that separates Marian Lake from the North Arm and then on to the Precambrian rocks of the Canadian Shield. From Rae to Yellowknife, the road is entirely on the Precambrian. With their variegated colours and diverse rock types, they offer much interest to the collector and provide a welcome change from the rather monotonous succession of palaeozoic limestones and other sedimentary rocks.

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13.3

**Dory Point Campground:** Overlooking the Mackenzie River. Six tent or trailer sites, shelters, tables, pit toilets, well water, barbecue grills, wood. Excellent fishing.

At this point the Mackenzie is about one mile wide, lying between low wooded banks of boulder clay. Shallow ledges extend from either shore, reducing the navigable width of the river to about 100 yards in places.

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14.3

**Service Station:** BA gas and oil, café,

cabins, general store, boat dock and launching site. Open 5 a.m. to 1 a.m.

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15

**Mackenzie River:** Free ferry service every half hour from 5 a.m. to 1 a.m. as ice conditions permit, generally June through October. Winter road across ice December - May. Road closed during freeze-up and break-up. M.V. Johnny Berens named after chief cook for the Hudson's Bay Company 'Big House' in Fort Simpson in the 1880's.



15.4

**Mackenzie River Picnic Site:** On north side of river. Good view of river and ferry crossing. Picnic tables, shelters, toilets, fireplace, barbecue grills and a good water supply from the river.



16.3

**Natural History note:** First good example of a raised muskeg, a common feature between Providence and Rae. Surrounded by aspen and willows, Labrador tea, bearberry, some dwarf birch and cloudberry.

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19

**Service Station:** Esso gas and oil, minor highway repairs. Café. Open 8 a.m. to 1 a.m. Fort Providence, on the Mackenzie River, 3.5

miles from highway. Unlicensed airstrip located 1 mile from highway on road to Fort Providence.

Gas and oil 8 a.m. to 1 a.m., any time in an emergency. Accommodation at Snowshoe Inn. Camping and trailer parking. Café open 8 a.m. to midnight, June 15 - September 15 and 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. September 15 - June 15. General store, open 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday through Saturday. Hudson's Bay post, Roman Catholic Mission, meteorological station, R.C.M.P. detachment, post office.

Fishing on Mackenzie River for grayling, pickerel and northern pike.

Slave Indian Handicrafts at Nursing station and at Snowshoe Inn gift shop. Moosehair and quill embroidery specialties.

**Historical note:** Alexander Mackenzie, while employed by the Northwest Company, was the first white man to see this country on his journey to explore the great river which bears his name. As a result of his visit in 1789 a trading post known as Fort Providence was established. This post was still in existence 31 years later, when Franklin made his journey to the Coppermine River in 1820, but was abandoned shortly afterwards

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33

**Natural History note:** Highway cuts through belt of insular grasslands 900 feet in width. This is a superb example of vegetation occurring on clay soils laid down when waters stood at about the 300 foot level in pre-glacial Great Slave Lake.

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59.3

**Natural History note:** A short trail leads 250 feet east from the highway to Caen Lake, where there is a huge marl delta. Limestone dissolved from the bedrock has been precipitated forming extensive white marl deposits around the shores of the clear shallow lake. Four concentric circles of vegetation can be clearly identified here, that of the open water, the sedge mat, a shrub zone and the typical muskeg forest of black spruce.

Caen lake was named after the town in France, where the Canadian and British armies took part in a major battle of World War II.

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59.9

**Natural History note:** A particularly good example of a rabbit browse line in a stand of



jack pine. The damage occurred during the winter of 1961-62 when the snowshoe rabbit grazed heavily on the lower branches of these trees which are 15 to 20 feet in height. The upper level of the browse line is about a yard above the ground.

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75.5

**Chan Lake:** Campground, fireplace and toilets.

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81

**Geological note:** Within a mile the highway passes through a series of ten linear ridges, representing the shores of old Glacial Lake McConnell, a vast lake that extended from Great Bear Lake through Great Slave Lake to Lake Athabasca, towards the end of the ice age. It was named in honour of the well-known Canadian geologist, R. G. McConnell, who worked in the area in the 1880's.

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130.5

**Natural History note:** Excellent example of a sinkhole, a common feature in this area, which is generally underlain by gypsum bedrock of mid-Devonian age. The sinkholes are formed by water-soluble limestone dissolving, allowing the overburden to cave in.

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132

**Geological note:** Borrow pit excavation has uncovered deposits of gypsum interbedded with limestone, and dolomite of Devonian age.

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141.4

**Geological note:** Here the highway begins its descent from the Devonian and older Palaeozoic limestone uplands to the south into the lowlands of Great Slave Lake. The point of contact with the Precambrian rocks of Canadian Shield lies to the north of the Frank Channel. In this area the zone of contact between the Palaeozoic rocks and the Shield is characterized by impressive scarps of Ordovician dolomite containing fossils. Against these, beach strands of glacial Lake McConnell rest at varying levels. The most prominent scarp can be traced from Redrock Point to the west of Faber Lake, a distance of 142 miles.

At mile 141, half a mile from the highway, there is a superb vista north to Frank Channel and eastwards towards Great Slave Lake from the escarpment.

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142.5

**"Mosquito" Creek:** Here Mountain Avens, or White Dryad, the floral emblem of the Northwest Territories is well represented.

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145.2

**Campground:** Great Slave Lake Campground has shelter, tables, barbecue grills, toilets, boat launching facilities and a white sand beach. Good view of North Arm of lake.

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152

**Frank Channel:** Bridge over the Frank Channel, which separates the 62 mile long North Arm of Great Slave Lake from 20 mile long Marian Lake.

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154.8

**Road to Rae:** Seven miles from the highway, Rae is the largest Indian settlement in the N.W.T., having a population of 1,200.

Gas available from Arnie's General Store, 8 a.m. to 10 p.m. Dog Rib Indian handicrafts centre, operated by Etsaredi Co-operative, open 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. R.C.M.P. detachment, post office, Hudson's Bay post, and a Roman Catholic Mission and hospital. No commercial accommodation.

**Notes for Rockhounds:** From Rae to Yellowknife, the highway follows the shore over Precambrian rocks. A wide range of igneous, sedimentary and metamorphic rocks may be seen.

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160.9

**Stagg River:** Highway maintenance camp.

Fishing trips by boat to Fred McCordic's Stagg Lake Lodge, 20 miles upriver, for lake trout, northern pike and pickerel.

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172.9

**Natural History note:** Interesting vegetation around lake and Precambrian rock outcrop includes yellow pond lily and some fifteen species of lichen.

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191.4

**Boundary Creek Campground:** Picnic shelter, tables, fireplaces, wood, toilets, water from stream.

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204.8

**Geological note:** Chalcopyrite and pyrite

crystals in a steep cliff to the north of the highway.

212.5

**Long Lake Campground:** Camping and trailer accommodation about 1 mile from the centre of Yellowknife. Picnic shelter, tables, cook stove, fire places, toilets, water from well, boat launching site and dock. Long Lake is about 18 miles long, white sand beach opposite the camp.

213

**Yellowknife:** A modern community with every convenience, that had its birth in the rush following the gold discoveries of 1935. In 1967 Yellowknife became the capital of the Northwest Territories and the seat of the Territorial Government. Its economic life is still based on mining gold and two mines are located right in town. Population in 1967 was 5,000.



## Services

**Service Stations and Garages:** Frame and Perkins; Yellowknife Motors.

**Accommodation:** Gold Range Hotel, Yellowknife Hotel, Frontier Inn Motel, Trail's End Trailer Court. For details refer to ACCOMMODATION IN CANADA'S ARCTIC NORTHWEST TERRITORIES.

**Transportation:** Fully modern, hard-surfaced, all-weather airport. Scheduled air service by Pacific Western Airlines to Edmonton. Cambridge Bay, Norman Wells, Inuvik, Hay River, Fort





Smith and Fort Resolution. Northward Aviation provides regular service to Port Radium, Coppermine and Holman Island; float and ski equipped aircraft use Yellowknife Bay and docking facilities at the old town. For charter services refer to list of charter air carriers. Daily bus service provided by Canadian Coachways Ltd. Taxi service available. Car rental companies Hertz, Frame and Perkins. Boat rental, boat launching facilities. Bus service in town.

**Radio and Television:** CBC Radio Station CFYK, 1340 AM, set up in 1958 as program centre for the Mackenzie network. Television channel 8, CBC station CFAT began broadcasting in 1967 using taped programs.

**Communications:** Telephone, telegraph, teletype, telex, radio telephone, daily postal delivery.

**Clubs:** Elks Club, Royal Canadian Legion, Masons, Lions, Daughters of the Midnight Sun.

**Churches:** St. Patrick's church and St. Joseph's convent (Roman Catholic); Holy Trinity (Anglican); Pentecostal Tabernacle; United Church, Calvary Baptist Church; Kingdom Hall (Jehovah's Witnesses); Baha'i Congregation.

**Banks:** Bank of Nova Scotia, Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce, Yellowknife Savings and Credit Union.

**Medical:** Medical clinic (physicians and surgeons; optometrist), hospital. Two drug stores. Resident dentist.

**Police:** Regional office of R.C.M.P. Judicial centre of the N.W.T.

**Stores and Services:** Barber shops, hairdressers, Government liquor store, weekly newspaper NEWS OF THE NORTH, bakery, supermarket, department stores including Hudson's Bay Company, hardware stores, photographic shop, restaurants and cafés, cleaning and laundry services.

**Attractions:** Monument to bush pilots of Canada is located on the Dome, a high rock outcrop in the old town commanding a view of the float plane base.

Museum of the North in Yellowknife has displays depicting early history of the N.W.T. and of mining industry there. Also exhibits of Indian and Eskimo culture. A handicraft shop is located in the same building.

Museum hours — 10:00 a.m. - 8:00 p.m.

McNiven Beach on Frame Lake, one mile south of Yellowknife, has a long white sand beach.

Picnic tables, changing houses, concession booth, rafts, diving board, fenced wading area for children. Tours of Giant Yellowknife Mine underground operations Wednesday and Friday, for men only. Tours of mill Tuesday and Thursday; women are welcome. Booklet for visitors available.

The ore minerals of the Yellowknife Gold deposits are of interest to rock hounds. Gold and aurostibnite are contained in quartz lenses in chlorite schist zones cutting Precambrian greenstones, and in quartz lenses in Precambrian sedimentary rocks. The gold is found as nuggets, plates, blebs or as thin films with pyrite and calcite, as gold leaves, as spongyform gold, and as distorted octahedral crystals.

Other minerals associated with the deposit include arsenopyrite, pyrite, marcasite, gudmundite, pyrrhotite, bismuthinite, sphalerite, chalcopyrite, galena, molybdenite, specularite, haematite, schoelite, magnetite and ilmenite, stibnite, and a number of the sulphosalt series of minerals.

Current gold producers are Con-Rycon mine (Consolidated Mining and Smelting Company Ltd.) and the Giant Mine (Giant Yellowknife Gold Mines Limited). The Ptarmigan and Negus mines are now inactive. The properties of Akaitcho Yellowknife Gold Mines Limited are under development.



# NWT Highway 4

## Ingraham Trail

Forty miles long and gravel-surfaced, the Ingraham Trail extends east of Yellowknife beyond Prelude Lake and gives access to good fishing and boating on many small lakes and rivers. There are many features of interest to the rock and mineral collector along this highway.

Mile

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1

**Geological note:** The West Bay fault is a conspicuous example of the numerous faults in the vicinity of the Yellowknife Bay area. Movement along these faults has been largely horizontal and, in each case, the east side has been shifted northward.

This fault, which is marked by an east-facing scarp up to 50 feet high, has a horizontal offset of 3½ miles. The rocks present are mainly andesite, basalt and dacite.

The ore zones of both the Giant and Con Mines are located in one complex shear zone which has been offset by the fault.

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3.1

**Turn-off to Vee Lake:** 1.4 miles along the access road pillow structures can be seen in the green rock complex, part of the Yellowknife Group that includes basalt, dacite, rhyolite, porphyry, gabbro and diorite. 1.9 miles from the highway is a pile of discarded drill cores of interest to collectors. 3.2 miles from the highway is Vee Lake, 1¼ miles long by ¼ mile wide. From the east arm of this small lake, a portage leads into Walsh Lake where there is excellent trout fishing.

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4.9

**Bridge over Yellowknife River:**

The Yellowknife River, 165 miles in length, has its headwaters in Porphyry Lake and provides



a canoe route from Great Slave Lake to the upper waters of the Coppermine River. It is formed by a succession of lakes and connecting streams, necessitating frequent portages. The name Porphyry Lake was used on Sir John Franklin's map.

Dependent upon the depth of water over the mudbanks at the head of Yellowknife Bay the river is navigable for a distance of six miles to the rapids at the southern end of Prosperous Lake where there is a fall of 2½ feet.

Excellent view from top of an adjacent Precambrian outcrop. Good angling. Good point at which to launch a boat or canoe for a journey up the Yellowknife River to the outlet of Prosperous and Prelude Lakes or down the Yellowknife River to the Bay.

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5.4

**Geological note:** The road passes in full view of strikingly up-turned sediments. These rocks, part of the Yellowknife Group, consist of greywacke, slate, quartz-mica schist and phyllite, strike generally northwesterly and dip nearly vertically. Overturning and drag folding is well displayed in the sediments which are metamorphosed. Dykes, stringers, glacial striae and gouges together with drag folding are all readily observable.

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6.4

**Geological note:** Hematite-streaked serpentine suitable for tumbling, making cabochons and polishing is found along the highway, associated with ultra-basic igneous rocks.

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6.8

**Geological note:** The Hay Duck fault is a striking feature, fronted by a fairly sharp cliff up to 60 feet in height with dark brown to reddish rock materials. Fairly extensive weathering has occurred in the fault zone along which the displacement is about 2½ miles; the east side has shifted relatively northward. Within the olivine rich gabbro of the scarp face, visible quantities of jasper, epidote and hematite are reported. Nickel, chromium, vanadium, and platinum are said to be present in small amounts.

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10

**Ptarmigan Mine:** The shaft of this abandoned mine is situated on a nodular quartz schist and hornfels rocks; the gold is associated with a quartz vein up to 25 feet in width and exposed at intervals to the northwest for a length of

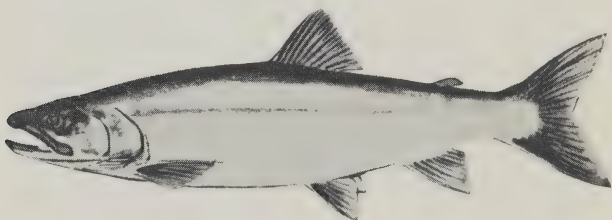
about 1,300 feet. While most of the quartz is glassy, some is milky to grey in colour and contains rare vugs less than an inch across that are lined with quartz crystals and partly filled with dark brown sphalerite. Tiny needles of brown tourmaline, pale green feldspar, carbonate and scheelite are also found. Nearly 12,000 ounces of gold were recovered from this mine during its nine months of operation in 1941-42. The property is presently under the control of Consolidated Mining and Smelting Company; collectors should ask permission before entering the property.

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## 12.7

**Prosperous Lake:** Small sand beaches, Precambrian outcrops and marshes line the shores of this clear, cool lake, 9½ miles long by 1½ to 2¾ miles wide.

This is an excellent starting point for an extensive motor canoe trip through Prelude Lake and into the Yellowknife and Cameron Rivers. Northern pike, whitefish and lake trout are reasonably plentiful in these waters.



Small dock. Picnic area and campground with tables, barbecue grills, toilets, water from lake.

**Geological note:** There is an interesting outcrop of a pegmatite dyke, composed of quartz feldspar and yellowish muscovite mica. Excellent spodumene crystals and some black tourmaline in a rather poorly crystalized state are present. This area was staked for minerals in the mid 1940's. Discoveries of chiastolite were noted at the Ted group of claims located east and south of the rapids at the outlet of Prosperous Lake. The claims were staked for scheelite which is associated with garnet and quartz in the schist.

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## 11.7

**Geological note:** Amethyst occurs in both massive and crystalline forms with white quartz along the Vega fault which extends southeastward from the south end of Prosperous Lake

across Island Lake. Specimens of amethyst may be obtained from numerous exposures along the 28 mile fault. Gold, chromite, tourmaline, beryl and tantalite are also said to be present.

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15.5

**Madeline Lake:** Fishing for northern pike. Picnic tables and toilets.

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17

**"Pontoon" Lake:** Picnic tables and toilets.

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19.9

**Rockhounds:** Spodumene of fair to good quality though not suitable for lapidary work, occurs in pegmatite.

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18.5

**Access road to Prelude Lake:** The lake, 10 miles long and two miles wide is reached by an access road 1.5 miles from the highway.

Campground set in jack pine forest has screened camp kitchen, tables, stove, picnic tables, barbecue grills, toilets, water from spring. Excellent view of lake.

Cabins and boat rental near campground. Shoreline is variable, a succession of sand beaches, marshes and Precambrian outcrops. Many islands. Water clear and suitable for swimming. Angling for grayling, lake trout, northern pike and pickerel. Excellent for boating and canoeing. Access to Cameron River and Hidden and Reed Lakes, all of which present good opportunities for wilderness travel. Trout fishing in Hidden Lake reported excellent.

Beryl crystals, greenish yellow in colour, and measuring up to 7 inches across and 7 inches long; black, purplish-red and green tourmaline; gahirite and columbite-tantalite crystals (up to 1/4 inch by 1 1/4 inches) are associated in the pegmatite dykes which lie two to four miles north of Prelude Lake and are enclosed in an area of ten square miles. The biggest concentration of beryl is in dykes one to two miles north of the most northerly bay of the lake.

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22.9

**Geological note:** Tourmaline of only fair quality occurs in pegmatite.



# NWT Highway 5

## Fort Smith Highway

In 1966, the Fort Smith Highway was completed. From Mile 0 to Mile 38 there is crushed rock surfacing ; from Mile 38 to Mile 158 the road has been finished with traffic gravel.

Mile

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1

### Hay River crossing :

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1-38

**Geological note:** The highway crosses a low-lying area of morass and muskeg underlain by palaeozoic rocks between narrow beach strands of Great Slave Lake and its precursor, Glacial Lake McConnell.

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35.6

**Buffalo River:** Rocks of interest to the collector lie along the river bank, some of them containing pyrite crystals and garnets. Canoe trips upstream to Buffalo Lake in Wood Buffalo National Park or downstream to Great Slave Lake can be commenced at this point.

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38

**Highway Junction :** Highway maintenance camp. N.W.T. Highway 6 leads east 15 miles to Pine Point.

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61

**Park Boundary :** Northern boundary of Wood Buffalo National Park. Its area of 17,300 square miles makes it the largest national park in the world ; one quarter of it lies in the Northwest Territories, the rest in Alberta.

The park is home to some 10,000 buffalo which are hybrids of the wood bison and plains bison. Single buffalo or herds may be met along the road. Motorists are urged to exercise extreme

caution and drive slowly enough to stop quickly if necessary.

Other animals found in the park include moose, black bear, northern timber wolf, coyote, red fox, mink and other small fur-bearing animals. The park is the only known nesting site of the nearly extinct whooping crane. The nesting grounds in the remote Sass River area of the Park are restricted.

In the southern part of the park lies the greatest duck hatching ground in the continent. Every species of duck known to North America comes here; over two million duck eggs are laid each year. Other waterfowl also pass through the park including geese, swans and Arctic snow-geese.

Sports fishing in the Park is governed by the National Parks angling regulations and a \$2.00 park fishing licence is required.

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70

**Fire Tower:** Two hundred feet behind the fire tower is an excellent example of a sink hole.

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75

**Nyarling River:** The Indian name means "under-ground River".

110-118

Buffalo may be observed on road. Drive with care after dark.

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128

**Little Buffalo River:** Park boundary.

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133

**Picnic Site:** Access road leads 1½ miles north to Little Buffalo Falls. Wooded area overlooking scenic river. Pit toilets, stream water, wood, shelter, fireplaces, grills, tables. Fossils may be found along the river bank. Road leads to boat launching facilities below falls. Good fishing in early summer.

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147

**Salt River:** Buffalo Crossing Farms, a private centennial project. Homesteaders raise barley, oats, flax, hay, chickens, sheep, cows, horses and pigs.

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155

**Picnic Site:** Nine-mile access road to picnic site with shelter built by Thebacha Association (Indian Co-operative) in Fort Smith. This was

the site of a traditional Indian fishing camp.  
Do not attempt trip in wet weather.

Here the Salt River runs into the Slave. The Slave River is 290 miles in length and has its headwaters in Lake Athabaska. The first bridge in the N.W.T. was built in 1942 by the U.S. Army over the Salt River.

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156

**Salt Flats:** Nearby salt escarpment has produced saline flats and salty springs. Sandhill cranes frequent area. Sixteen-mile drive on old winter road to Hay River. Not advisable when wet.

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158

**Bell Rock:** Bell Rock is old terminus of the Northern Transportation Company Ltd. Between Bell Rock and Fort Fitzgerald, 22 miles up river in Alberta, the Slave River cuts across a ridge of hard granite, making a series of rapids and falls not navigable by any kind of boat. The total fall in this distance is 120 feet.

The 22 mile portage in 1884 was nothing but a narrow cart trail which wound over a sandy forested plain and across swamps and muskegs. Red River carts drawn by oxen took a full day to make the crossing.

Today an all-weather gravel road has replaced the portage, skirting the southerly edge of Fort Smith.

Overgrown parts of the early portage trail can still be followed along the high bank above the rapids of the Drowned; within the town limits of Fort Smith area is the northernmost nesting grounds for pelican.

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165

**Fort Smith:** With southern town limits on the 60th Parallel, Fort Smith has a population of 2,000. The Chipewyan Indian name for Fort Smith is Thebacha, which means "below the rapids". The area was known to explorers from the 1700's on because of its strategic position at the head of navigation of the lower Mackenzie watershed, 1,500 miles from the Arctic Ocean. It was also an important fur trading centre, and in 1874 the Hudson's Bay Company established a post there.

## **Services**

**Service Stations:** BA Oil; Fort Smith Garage.

**Accommodation:** Pinecrest Hotel. For details, see ACCOMMODATION IN CANADA'S ARCTIC NORTHWEST TERRITORIES.



**Transportation :** Scheduled air service from Edmonton via Pacific Western Airlines ; regular PWA flights between Fort Smith, Fort Resolution, Hay River and Yellowknife.

**Air Charter Services :** Gateway Aviation Klondike Helicopters. Car rentals — Slave River Construction. Taxis — United Cabs, Yellow Cabs.

**Radio :** CBC relay station, dial 860 A.M.

**Communications :** Telephone, telegram, telex, daily mail delivery. First airmail flight took place in 1928.

**Clubs :** Royal Canadian Legion, Lions.

**Churches :** St. Joseph's Cathedral (Roman Catholic), St. John's (Anglican), Church of the Nazarene, Baptist Church.

**Bank :** Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce.

**Health :** St. Ann's hospital, operated by the Roman Catholic Church. Medical clinic operated by Department of National Health and Welfare. Resident physician, surgeon, public health nurses. Resident dentist in private practice.

**Police :** Royal Canadian Mounted Police.

**Stores and services :** Groceries, gas and propane, garage service, hardware and fishing tackle, handicrafts, drug store, restaurants, liquor store, coin-op laundry and dry-cleaning, movie theatre, beauty and barber shop, Department Stores.

**Sports Fishing :** Fly-in fishing : Burnt Lake Cabins (lake trout, northern pike, walleye).

**Recreation :** Curling rink, ski slope, 9 hole golf course. Father Ebner's Museum in Grandin College has a fine collection relating to the history of the north. Pine Lake, 40 miles south of Fort Smith in Wood Buffalo Park, is Fort Smith's favourite summer resort.

**Wood Buffalo National Park :** Persons planning to drive south into the Park should call at the Park Headquarters in Fort Smith for advice before entering the park. The park has been used entirely as a wildlife preserve since its establishment and is little developed for public use. Unless you are familiar with the country and wilderness conditions, you should stay on the main roads and plan to return to Fort Smith each night.

There are two major all-weather roads in the park. One leads from Fort Smith south to Hay Camp, where there is a buffalo management station and a modern abattoir. The other is the Peace Point highway, which follows a south-

westerly route from Fort Smith. The park boundary is at mile 14 of this road and at mile 26 is the Raup Lake road, which is passable only during dry weather. At mile 38 is Pine Lake, a beautiful clear lake with sand beaches. In July and mid-August the waters are warm enough for swimming. There is a warden station and camping area, and a number of private cottages. Speckled trout and splake fishing.

Peace Point is the most southerly point in the park that can be reached by vehicle. There is a warden station here and along the north shore of the Peace River are gypsum cliffs, part of an extensive gypsum deposit that runs for many miles. There is another road which leads eastward along the Peace River, but it should not be taken if there has been rain recently. Under ideal weather conditions, a circle tour can be made through the park from Fort Smith to Peace Point to Carlson's Landing to Scow Island Channel and returning through Hay Camp to Fort Smith.

**Fort Fitzgerald, Alberta:** Fourteen miles from Fort Smith on an all-weather gravel road. The Chipewyan Indian name is Thebathe, meaning "above the rapids". It still has some importance as a shipping point. In 1961 the population was 149. There is a Hudson's Bay Store, a church, sawmill and all necessary facilities for trans-shipping cargo around the rapids.

# NWT Highway 6

## Pine Point Highway

The highway to Pine Point was completed in 1964. In 1966 some work was carried out on the extension to Fort Resolution. This included clearing a right-of-way between Fort Resolution and Little Buffalo River. In 1967 a temporary bridge was built over Little Buffalo River and construction of the road between Fort Resolution and Little Buffalo River began.

Mile

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0-15

Power line of the Northern Canada Power Commission runs to Pine Point from the Taltson River Dam, 30 miles north-east of Fort Smith.

Note swaths in bush where trees have been felled to indicate boundaries of claims staked.

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15

**Pine Point:** Population 600. Pine Point Hotel (for details, refer to ACCOMMODATION IN CANADA'S ARCTIC NORTHWEST TERRITORIES). Service station in old town open 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. daily except Sunday (1:00 - 2:30 p.m.) ; gas, oil, tires. Post Office, R.C.M.P. detachment, Federal school, recreation hall and curling rink, nursing station, telephone, Bank of Montreal. CBC Radio relay station, dial 880 AM. Large open-pit mine operated by Pine Point Mines Ltd., a subsidiary of Cominco Ltd. produces 215,000 tons of lead and zinc concentrates annually.

At the time of the Klondike Gold Rush there was a flurry of interest in the Pine Point area and claims were staked for silver, though no finds were made. Canadian government geologists made a number of studies in the area during the period 1899-1930.

After an extensive drilling program 1946-1954, the mine went into production in 1965.

The Great Slave Railway that made this development possible was completed in 1964, following a 432 mile route similar to that of the highway from Grimshaw, Alberta.

The Pine Point ore deposits are of the Mississippi Valley type, a distinctive family of lead-zinc deposits that accounts for 20 per cent of the world's production of these minerals. Only two minerals are common: sphalerite (zinc sulphide) and galena (lead sulphide). These occur in several forms and can be associated with each other in a number of ways. The mineral marcasite occurs frequently and in places pyrrhotite is found. Native sulphur and bitumen are locally abundant.

One surface feature which has been a valuable guide to the ore is sinkholes — rounded steep-walled depressions that may be up to a few hundred feet in diameter and in places expose mineralized bedrock in their walls.

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32

**Dawson Landing:** A one-mile track leads north to Dawson Landing from mile 16 on the bush road between Fort Resolution and Pine Point. For motorists with suitable vehicles, the road affords an opportunity to get close to the country.

A long beach composed of limestone shingle rises in a series of benches, providing a good view of Great Slave Lake and some of the off-shore islands. Driftwood, brought in by the on-shore winds, is found in quantity. Angling for pike and pickerel.

Picnic and camping area with shelter and outdoor toilets.

A Hay River commercial fishing company maintains a base camp here with dock and packing plant.



## For More Information

The Canadian Government Travel Bureau provides a free Travel Counselling service. Your inquiries will be welcomed at any of the Bureau's offices :

**Boston, Mass.** 02199

263 Plaza,

The Prudential Center

**Chicago, Ill.** 60602

100 North LaSalle Street

**Cincinnati, Ohio** 45202

Room 1010,

Enquirer Building

617 Vine Street

**Cleveland, Ohio** 44115

Winous-Point Building

1250 Euclid Avenue

**Detroit, Mich.** 48226

Book Building

1257-1259 Washington

Bldv.

**Hartford, Conn.** 06103

234 Constitution Plaza

**Indianapolis, Ind.** 46204

Room 502,

Merchants Bank Building

11 South Meridian Street

**Los Angeles, Calif.** 90014

510 West 6th Street

**Minneapolis, Minn.** 55402

124 South 7th Street,

Northstar Center

**New York, N.Y.** 10019

680 Fifth Avenue

**Philadelphia, Pa.** 19102

Suite 305,

Three Penn Center

**Pittsburgh, Pa.** 15222

1001-3 Jenkins Arcade

Liberty and Fifth Avenues

**Rochester, N.Y.** 14604

247 Midtown Plaza

**San Francisco, Calif.** 94105

1 Second Street,

Corner Market

**Seattle, Wash.** 98101

304 Union Street

**Washington, D.C.** 20006

RCA Building,

1725 K Street, N.W.

## Provincial Travel Bureaus

### Alberta

Alberta Government

Travel Bureau,

Edmonton, Alberta

### British Columbia

B.C. Department of

Travel Industry,

Victoria, B.C.

### Manitoba

Tourist Development

Branch, Department of

Tourism and Recreation,

Winnipeg, Man.

### New Brunswick

New Brunswick Travel

Bureau, Fredericton, N.B.

### Newfoundland

Newfoundland and

Labrador Tourist

Development Office,

St. John's, Nfld.

### Northwest Territories

TravelArctic,

Yellowknife, N.W.T.

### Nova Scotia

Nova Scotia Travel

Bureau, Department of

Trade and Industry,

Halifax, N.S.

### Ontario

Department of Tourism

and Information,

185 Bloor Street East,

Toronto, Ontario

### Prince Edward Island

P.E.I. Travel Bureau,

Charlottetown, P.E.I.

### Québec

Québec Tourist Branch,

Dept. of Tourism,

Fish and Game,

Québec, Qué.

### Saskatchewan

Tourist Development

Branch, Department of

Industry and Commerce,

Regina, Sask.

### Yukon

Department of Travel

and Publicity,

P.O. Box 2703,

Whitehorse Y.T.

Photographs, front cover, from top :

1. Igloo Roman Catholic church, Inuvik.
2. The Giant Mine, a gold mine near Yellowknife.
3. Lake trout fishing on Great Slave Lake.
4. Fishing below Alexandra Falls, along the Mackenzie Highway.